

REMARKS

All of the pending claims in this application have been allowed, with the exception of Claims 29-31 which were rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of the disclosure of the cited Haines and Clothier references.

In particular, it has been proposed in the Office Action to replace the RFID memory of Haines with the barcode of Clothier, and it is stated that such a combination would yield the claimed invention of Claims 29-31. However, as amended herein, Claim 29 requires that the claimed component comprises:

a memory storing information for identifying the component, wherein the information stored in the memory is represented in images used to create a label to be printed and used for returning the component when a condition regarding an end of lifetime of the component has been determined.

In this regard, upon combining the Haines and Clothier references, one does not find any disclosure of the above-quoted requirements of Claim 29. Instead, such a combination results in a combination of similar elements using a barcode, but the combination does not even suggest that such barcode includes "information ... represented in images used to create a label to be printed and used for returning the component." Because of this absence of any disclosure in the prior art of such stored information, Applicant submits that Claim 29 cannot be deemed to be obvious.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Krause", is written over a horizontal line.

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